



Moab RMP and Monticello RMP

Introduction

The Moab and Monticello Field Offices, in conjunction with their cooperating agencies, are currently working to identify a range of alternatives for managing public lands in Grand and San Juan Counties. These alternatives will be analyzed in the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be available for a 90 day public comment period in September 2006. Prior to this (in May or June), the alternatives will be posted on our websites for informational purposes only. Updates to our websites include the Mineral Potential Reports and the Reasonable Foreseeable Development scenarios for oil and gas. The websites are:

<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/ut/moab> for the Moab RMP

<http://www.blm.gov/rmp/ut/monticello> for the Monticello RMP

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

As part of the land use planning process, the Field Offices are required to consider establishing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). ACECs are designations that highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, wildlife resources, and other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. During the scoping period for the RMPs, the BLM requested nominations from the public for potential ACECs. Nominations that were received both internally and externally were reviewed to determine if they meet the criteria for relevance and importance as defined in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 1610.7-2. For those areas that meet the criteria, the BLM establishes special management measures for the potential designation of an ACEC in the RMP. The reports for the Relevance and Importance Evaluations of ACEC Nominations are available on the RMP websites.

Moab Field Office Potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Thirty-five areas were nominated as ACECs within the Moab Field Office planning area. Of those, fourteen meet the relevance and importance criteria and will be brought forward for consideration under at least one alternative in the draft RMP/EIS. These 14 potential ACECs and their values of concern are listed in Table 1.0 below.

Table 1.0 Moab Field Office Potential ACECs

| Area Name | Values of Concern | Acres |
|---|---|---------|
| Behind the Rocks | Scenic, sensitive plant species, cultural | 17,836 |
| Bookcliffs Wildlife Area | Wildlife | 304,252 |
| Canyon Rims | Scenic | 23,400 |
| Cisco White Tailed Prairie Dog Complex | Wildlife | 125,620 |
| Colorado River Corridor | Scenic, cultural, wildlife, rare plants, natural system | 50,483 |
| Cottonwood-Diamond Watershed | Natural hazards and natural system | 35,830 |
| Highway 279 Corridor/ Shafer Basin/ Long Canyon | Scenic and wildlife | 13,500 |
| Labyrinth Canyon | Scenic and historic | 8,528 |
| Mill Creek Canyon | Scenic, cultural, natural system, fish | 13,501 |
| Ten Mile Wash | Cultural, wildlife, natural system, natural hazards | 4,980 |
| Upper Courthouse | Historic, natural system, rare plants | 11,529 |
| Westwater Canyon | Scenic and fish | 5,069 |
| White Wash | Natural system | 2,988 |
| Wilson Arch | Scenic | 3,700 |

Monticello Field Office Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The Monticello Field Office has ten existing ACECs that have been reconsidered for designation in the RMP process. Nine additional ACECs were nominated during the scoping period with some portions overlapping existing ACECs. The twelve potential ACECs that were found to meet the relevance and importance criteria will be brought forward for consideration under at least one alternative in the draft RMP/EIS and are listed in Table 2.0 below.

Table 2.0 Monticello Field Office Potential ACECs

| Area Name | Values of Concern | Acreage |
|--------------------|--|---------|
| Alkali Ridge | Cultural | 39,196 |
| Bridger Jack Mesa | Near-relict vegetation | 6,225 |
| Butler Wash North | Scenic | 17,365 |
| Cedar Mesa | Cultural | 306,742 |
| Dark Canyon | Scenic, wildlife | 61,660 |
| Hovenweep | Cultural | 2,412 |
| Indian Creek | Scenic | 8,510 |
| Lavender Mesa | Relict-vegetation | 649 |
| Lockhart Basin | Scenic | 47,783 |
| Shay Canyon | Cultural | 119 |
| San Juan River | Scenic, cultural, wildlife, natural system | 6,365 |
| Valley of the Gods | Scenic | 22,863 |

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